In the Claims

72 (currently amended). A method of using an agent which influences the partitioning of dietary lipids between the liver and peripheral tissues ~~for use~~ as a medicament to treat a condition in which it is desirable to increase the partitioning of dietary lipids to the liver, reducing the levels of free fatty acids in obese individuals, decreasing the body weight of obese individuals, or treating an obesity related condition selected from the group consisting of obesity-related atherosclerosis, obesity-related insulin resistance, obesity-related hypertension, microangiopathic lesions resulting from obesity-related Type II diabetes, ocular lesions caused by microangiopathy in obese individuals with Type II diabetes, and renal lesions caused by microangiopathy in obese individuals with Type II diabetes comprising the administration of a composition comprising said agent to an individual in an amount effective to treat said condition.

73 (withdrawn). A polypeptide comprising a consensus sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2 for use as a medicament.

74 (currently amended). The ~~agent~~ method of Claim 72, wherein said agent is a compound comprising~~comprises~~ a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of C1q, AdipoQ, ApM1, Acrp 30, cerebellin, multimerin and fragments of any of these polypeptides.

75 (currently amended). The ~~agent~~ method of Claim 74, wherein said compound comprises a human polypeptide ~~is~~ selected from the group consisting of ApM1 and fragments of ApM1.

76 (withdrawn). A method of reducing plasma lipoprotein levels in an animal, comprising the steps of:

identifying an animal having a measurable plasma lipoprotein level; and

administering to said animal a composition that includes a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an ApM1, Adipo Q or ACRP30 polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID:11, 12, or 13, wherein said polypeptide reduces plasma lipoprotein levels.

77 (withdrawn). A method of reducing plasma triglycerides levels in an animal, comprising the steps of:

identifying an animal having a measurable plasma triglycerides level; and

administering to said animal a composition that includes a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an ApM1, Adipo Q or ACRP30 polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID:11, 12, or 13, wherein said polypeptide reduces plasma triglycerides levels.

78 (withdrawn). A method of identifying candidate pharmaceutical agents for reducing plasma triglyceride levels in an animal, comprising the steps of:

identifying a compound that comprises a consensus sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:2;

obtaining a test animal having an initial level of plasma triglycerides;

administering said compound to the test animal;

waiting for a period of time;

measuring a post-treatment level of plasma triglycerides in a blood sample obtained from the test animal; and

identifying as candidate pharmaceutical agents any compound that results in a post-treatment level of plasma triglycerides that is lower than said initial level.

79 (withdrawn). The method of Claim 78, wherein the test animal is a mammal.

80 (withdrawn). The method of Claim 79, further comprising the step of feeding a high-fat meal to the mammal.

81 (withdrawn). A method of using an agent to decrease the activity of a compound which increases the partitioning of dietary lipids to the liver for use as a pharmaceutical.

82 (withdrawn). The method of Claim 81, for use in treating cachexia in subjects with neoplastic or para-neoplastic syndrome or eating disorders.

83 (withdrawn). The method of Claim 81, wherein said agent decreases the activity of Adipo Q, ACRP30 or ApM1.

84 (withdrawn). The agent of Claim 81, wherein said agent is an antibody which binds a compound selected from the group consisting of Adipo Q, ACRP30 or ApM1.

85 (withdrawn). A method for determining whether an obese individual is at risk of suffering from a condition selected from the group consisting of a condition associated with a lower than desirable level of portioning of dietary lipids to the liver, obesity-related atherosclerosis, obesity-related insulin resistance, obesity-related hypertension, microangiopathic lesions resulting from obesity-related Type II diabetes, ocular lesions caused by microangiopathy in obese subjects with Type II diabetes, and renal lesions caused by microangiopathy in obese subjects with Type II diabetes, comprising the step of determining whether the individual has a lower that normal level of adipo Q activity, ApM1 activity, or activity of a compound analogous thereto.